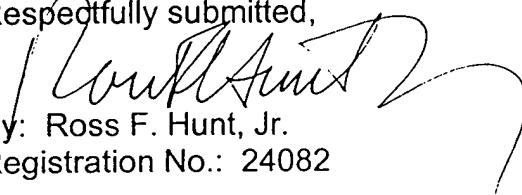


Claims 1 and 3-6 have been rejected while claims 2 and 7-22 have been objected to but indicated to be allowable and claims 23-25 have been allowed. Although applicant respectfully disagrees with the rejection of claim 1, in order to expedite the prosecution and place this application in condition for allowance, the subject matter of allowable claim 2 has been incorporated into claim 1 (and claim 2 has thus been canceled). Thus, all of the claims now pending either have been indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form or have been allowed.

Allowance of the application in its present form is respectfully solicited.

Date: May 10, 1999

Respectfully submitted,



By: Ross F. Hunt, Jr.

Registration No.: 24082

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